for handling of bags by a worker per day in keeping with the human capacity to reduce the hazards of the work.

Supply of poor quality rice to Karnataka

509. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has declared, for the first time, a rice war against the poor quality of rice supplied by Government to the State for disbursement through the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the what is the quantum of rice supplied and its cost;

(c) whether it is a fact that a couple of State Officials have been suspended for dereliction of duty and the State Government has threatened to sue the FCI for the poor quality of rice;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken against the erring Central Government officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The State Government of Karnataka had shown its reluctance for the acceptance of Rice procured under relaxed specification (URS rice). It had insisted for supply of uniform specification rice only.

(b) A quantity of 231520 Mts of rice was lifted by the Karnataka Government for PDS during the month of April, May and June 2000 @ Rs. 590- per quintal for people Below Poverty Line (BPL) and @ 1180/- per quintal for people Above Poverty Line (APL).

(c) Government of India is not aware about any such instance.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.